Second National Commission on Labour

2059. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the terms of reference of the Second National Commission on Labour;

(b) by when, the Commission is going to submit its Report;

(c) whether there is any proposal before Government to create Welfare Fund for the agricultural labourers in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The terms of reference of the Second National Commission on Labour set up on 15.10.1999 are: (i) to suggest rationalization of existing laws relating to labour in the organised sector; and (ii) to suggest an "umbrella" legislation for ensuring a minimum level of protection to the workers in the unorganised sector. The Commission is required to submit its report by October, 2001.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to create welfare fund for agricultural labourers in the country. However, in view of long pending need of some social security cover for agricultural workers, the Government has launched "Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana—2001". The scheme will be implemented by Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) in a phased manner.

The Scheme will provide comprehensive benefits of life insurance, pension and disability benefits as well as lump sum survival benefits to agricultural workers. The agricultural workers between the age of 18 to 50 years would be eligible under the Scheme. The worker will contribute Rs. 365 per year (rupee one per day) and the Government of India will contribute Rs. 730 per annum per worker. The scheme would initially cover 50 blocks in 50 districts during the first phase.